In the Claims

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1.-32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently amended) A method for assessing a compound's ability to specifically inhibit JNK kinase activity ~~prevent neuronal cell death occurring~~ in a mammal susceptible to or having a neurological condition, comprising:

(a) administering to an animal ~~an amount of a~~ said compound ~~that specifically inhibits JNK kinase activity~~ under conditions sufficient to allow for proper pharmacodynamic absorption and distribution thereof in the animal;

(b) harvesting a neuronal tissue sample from the animal and

(c) determining apoptosis in the tissue sample;

wherein a decrease ~~change~~ in apoptosis in the neuronal tissue sample, when compared to apoptosis in a neuronal tissue sample from an animal not administered the compound, is indicative of the compound's ability to specifically inhibit JNK kinase activity ~~prevent neuronal cell death occurring~~ in a mammal susceptible to or having a neurological condition.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein JNK is JNK1, JNK2 or JNK3, or combinations thereof.

35.-43. (Canceled)

44 (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein apoptosis is determined using a TUNEL assay.

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim 33, wherein apoptosis is determined by administration of γ-^{32}P-ATP ~~[γ-^{32}]ATP~~ to the animal and detecting the amount of phosphorylated c-Jun in the neuronal tissue sample.

46. (Currently amended) The method of claim 33, wherein apoptosis is determined by Hoechst 33342 ~~3342~~ staining.